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### PSCI 530.01: Graduate Seminar in International Relations

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PSC 530  
Fall 2015  
M 1:10-3:30  
LA 344

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Office Hours: MW 3:40-5:00, and by appointment

## **Graduate Seminar in International Relations (brief syllabus)**

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course will introduce you to the major literatures in international relations and provide you with theoretical, methodological, and empirical tools to evaluate and advance arguments about the contemporary international system. In the first part of the class, you will write and participate in seminar discussions about the structure, character, and future of the international system, as well as about the causes and consequences of recent and ongoing wars. In the second part of the class, you will write and present a professional-length paper analyzing an international issue of interest to you. The presentations and associated readings will help you develop expertise in four issue areas: security studies, international political economy, human rights, and the environment.

### **Prerequisite**

Graduate standing. Seniors with a strong record of upper-division coursework in international relations may be admitted with my permission.

### **Required Texts**

The following texts are required. The first two are available for purchase at the UM Bookstore.

Jennifer Sterling-Folker (JSF), ed., *Making Sense of International Relations Theory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2013).

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (A&J), *International Politics*, 12<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Pearson, 2014).

William Strunk, Jr., and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Longman, 1999).

*The New York Times* (Monday - Friday): <http://www.nyt.com>

As a student, you can subscribe for a reduced rate, or you can read it for free on the Mansfield Library website

Online readings, denoted by a plus sign (+). These readings are available on the course's Moodle website.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in each class session. This means that before class you must both read and begin to analyze and synthesize the assigned readings.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

5%	Intellectual autobiography (3-5 pages, due 9/8)
20%	Seminar participation
30%	Three essays on weekly readings (3-5 pages each)
10%	Paper proposal (8-12 pages, due 11/2)
30%	Research paper (18-20 pages, due 12/7)
5%	Presentation of research paper (10 minutes, 12/7)

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but the following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 93% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

93-100	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F

For UM's policy on incompletes, please see the Course Catalog.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with UM's Student Conduct Code. The Code is available at [http://www.umd.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umd.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the professor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university.

### **Disabilities**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide a reasonable modification.

"Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

### **Make-Up Policy**

I will excuse absences and accept late papers only from students directly involved in extreme, documented emergencies. If you find yourself in the midst of an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible (in advance of the seminar or due-date if possible) that you will be unable to submit the work on time. To do so, call me or send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency and giving me a way to contact you. I reserve the right to deny any and all petitions for make-up work, and to administer makeup assignments substantially different from the regular ones. *Note: Because I accept make-up work only in the event of extreme, documented emergencies, if you fail to submit a paper for any other reason you will receive a 0 for the assignment. This will put you at risk of failing the course.*

### **Drop Policy, Grading Options, and Incompletes**

The 15<sup>th</sup> instructional day is the last day to drop this class without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop after that, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation that has made it impossible for you to complete the course. For UM's policy on incompletes, see [http://archive.umd.edu/catalog/14\\_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php](http://archive.umd.edu/catalog/14_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php)

### **Preparing for Class**

International relations is a venerable and far-reaching field composed of many literatures, each with many arguments and contributors. To provide as intensive and extensive an introduction to the field as is needed for Master's examinations and theses, this course has a significant reading load: an average of 155 pages per week, with as much as 212 pages in a single week. This means you must set aside at least 6-8 hours per week to prepare for the seminar

## **Course Outline and Schedule**

### **I. INTRODUCTION** (8/31 and 9/7; 211 pp.)

\*\*\**Intellectual Autobiography due Tuesday 9/8*

### **II. CLASSICAL AND STRUCTURAL REALISM: THEORY** (9/14; 212 pp.)

### **III. STRUCTURAL AND (NEO)CLASSICAL REALISM: APPLICATIONS AND TESTS** (9/21; 167 pp.)

\*\*\**Reading Reviews due today from all students (Groups A and B).*

### **IV. CLASSICAL LIBERALISM** (9/28; 149 pp.)

### **V. NEOLIBERALISM AND THE ENGLISH SCHOOL** (10/5; 169 pp required plus 78 pp optional)

### **VI. RESEARCH AND WRITING METHODS; OVERVIEW OF IR SUBFIELDS** (10/12; about 100 pp.)

\*\*\**Paper Question due today from all students*

### **VII. MARXISM, LENINISM, DEPENDENCY THEORY, AND OTHER MATERIALIST THEORIES** (10/19; 197 pp.)

\*\*\**Reading Reviews due today from students in Group A*

\*\*\**Revised Paper Question due today from all students*

**VIII. CONSTRUCTIVISM, POSTMODERNISM, AND FEMINISM** (10/26; 201 or 213 pp, plus skimming)

\*\*\**Reading Reviews due today from students in Group B.*

**IX. RESEARCH STRATEGIES** (11/2; review readings from Week VI and others as needed for your proposal)

\*\*\**Paper Proposals due today.*

\*\*\**Between 11/2 and 11/6, each student must meet individually with Prof. A* for 30 minutes to receive feedback on his/her research question, hypotheses, tests, and paper outline, and assistance in finding data.

**X. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY** (11/9, 176 pp.)

**XI. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY** (11/16, 195 pp.)

**XII. HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES** (11/23, 173 pp.)

**XIII. FORECASTING THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM** (11/30; 183 pp. review; 127 pp. new)

**XIV. REFLECTIONS ON THE FIELD** (12/7; 80 pp)

\*\**Research Papers due today.* See paper assignment handout.

\*\*\**Paper Presentations today.*

**NOTES FOR STUDENTS IN THE PSCI MASTERS' PROGRAM:**

1) The *Comprehensive Exam in International Relations* is a take-home essay exam. The question will be posted on Moodle at noon on Saturday, December 12. Your essay is due in my email inbox AND under my door (LA 353) by noon on Tuesday, December 15.

2) If you would like to turn your seminar paper into an *MA Professional Paper*, please indicate that on the top of your final seminar paper. I will then give you detailed feedback about what is needed. I suggest you work on the paper during winter break. It's best to get these papers done asap while the material is still fresh in your mind.

Generally, professional papers go through several drafts. In your first draft, be sure to address all of the comments I send on your seminar paper.

Professional papers are 20-25 pages in length. See the MA handbook for information on format, including the required abstract. When you submit the first draft of your professional paper, it should be in that format, with a 100-word abstract summarizing your argument and findings.